



April 7, 2010

Coalition Members



The Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition (CIAQC) appreciates the opportunity to provide these brief comments today on the Proposed Revisions to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines. CIAQC was formed in 1989 by four southern California trade associations, the Southern California Contractors Association, Associated General Contractors of California, Engineering Contractors Association and the Building Industry Association of Southern California. CIAQC was created to obtain and provide information to its members concerning environmental regulatory issues affecting the construction and building industries and assist in the development of environmental regulatory strategies that will balance the goals of a healthy environment and a healthy local economy with the least adverse economic impacts. Since its founding, the membership of our coalition has grown and is now comprised of construction associations and individual members throughout the state.

The proposed RTP Guidelines before you today represents the efforts of many individuals, agencies, organizations and stakeholders working with the Advisory Committee to develop updated guidance. The new revisions will provide implementation guidance to MPOs and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies as they prepare for implementation of SB 375.

The Guidelines are intended to promote consistency through an integrated statewide approach to the transportation planning process. The steps that lead to this point today are many, and

success in this process is important for the future of California and its residents.

Too often however, after a plan or guidance receives the necessary approvals, the implementation process begins without a firm commitment to take another look later on at what has been done to see if the intended results indeed match expectations. The scope and breadth of the RTP guidelines are unprecedented. While California statute requires each MPO to adopt and submit an updated RTP to the commission every four or five years depending on the air quality attainment status of each region, the development of these plans moving forward will be based on the guidelines being considered here today. For this reason, CIAQC believes it is absolutely necessary that the effectiveness of the Guidelines itself should be reevaluated at a future date to determine the effects and impacts it is having on transportation and land use planning.

The Guidelines before you today will have a significant impact on the way California grows in the future. That is why it is critically important that the Guidelines must be reviewed within a reasonable amount of time to ensure that they are pointing everyone in the right direction. To do less would forego the opportunity to acknowledge any successes or shortcomings that might result from this monumental process.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our recommendation.